

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants acknowledge the indication in the office action that claims 2-8 and 11-13 are allowable.

New claims 18-37 are presented herein. Claims 18-27 are directed to methods for producing the hydrogen absorbing electrode produced according to claims 2-8 and 11-13, respectively; this is supported at least at application page 16, first full paragraph. New claims 28-37 are product claims, reciting a hydrogen-absorbing alloy produced according to the method of claims 2-8 and 11-13, respectively. No new matter has been entered.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of new claims 18-37 recite allowable subject matter.

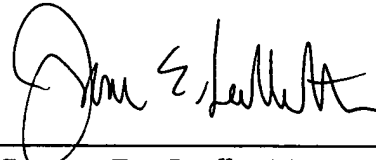
As each of claims 14-16 has been cancelled, the rejection thereof is now moot.

Applicants note the Office Action did not provide an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 filed concurrently with this application on July 24, 2001, indicating the references listed thereon have been considered during the examination of the present claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request indication that those references have, in fact, been considered.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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